

ARTICLE 20-04

DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Chapter
20-04-01 Duties

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20-04-01-01. Duties. A dental hygienist may perform the following services under the general, direct, indirect, or modified general supervision of a dentist.

1. Complete prophylaxis to include removal of accumulated matter, deposits, accretions, or stains from the natural and restored surfaces of exposed teeth. The dental hygienist may also do root planing and soft tissue curettage upon direct order of the dentist.
2. Polish and smooth existing restorations.
3. Apply topical applications of drugs to the surface tissues of the mouth and to exposed surfaces of the teeth, including anticariogenic agents and desensitizing solutions.
4. Take impressions for study casts.
5. Take and record preliminary medical and dental histories for the interpretation by the dentist.
6. Take and record pulse, blood pressure, and temperature.
7. Provide oral hygiene treatment planning.
8. Take dental radiographs.
9. Apply therapeutic agents subgingivally for the treatment of periodontal disease.
10. Hold impression trays in the mouth after placement by a dentist (e.g., reversible hydrocolloids, rubber base, etc.).
11. Receive removable dental prosthesis for cleaning and repair.
12. Dry root canal with paper points.

13. Place and remove rubber dams.
14. Place and remove matrix bands or wedges.
15. Take occlusal bite registration for study casts.
16. Place retraction cord in the gingival sulcus of a prepared tooth prior to the dentist taking an impression of the tooth.
17. Fabricate, adjust, place, recement, or remove a temporary crown, bridge, onlay, or temporary restorative material. This applies only to dentitions actively under treatment for which a permanent restoration is being fabricated.
18. Adjust permanent crowns outside of the mouth.
19. Perform nonsurgical clinical and laboratory oral diagnostic tests for interpretation by the dentist.
20. Apply pit and fissure sealants. Adjust sealants with slow speed handpiece.
21. Place and remove periodontal dressings, dry socket medications, and packing.
22. Remove sutures.
23. Monitor a patient who has been inducted by a dentist into nitrous-oxide relative analgesia.
24. Administer local anesthesia under the direct supervision of a dentist if criteria in section 20-04-01-03 are met.
25. Take impressions for fixed or removable orthodontic appliances, athletic mouth guards, bleaching trays, bite splints, flippers, and removable prosthetic repairs.
26. Preselect and prefit orthodontic bands.
27. Place, tie, and remove ligature wires and elastic ties, and place orthodontic separators.
28. Place and remove arch wires or appliances that have been activated by a dentist.
29. Cut and remove arch wires or replace loose bands, loose brackets, or other orthodontic appliances for palliative treatment.

30. Acid-etch enamel surfaces prior to pit and fissure sealants, direct bonding of orthodontic brackets, or composite restorations.
31. Place orthodontic brackets using an indirect bonding technique by seating the transfer tray loaded with brackets previously positioned in the dental laboratory by a licensed dentist.
32. Take face bow transfers.

History: Effective September 1, 1980; amended effective February 1, 1992; October 1, 1993; May 1, 1996; August 1, 1998; April 1, 2000; July 1, 2004; April 1, 2006.

General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-03

20-04-01-02. Prohibited services. A dental hygienist may not perform the following services:

1. Diagnosis and treatment planning.
2. Surgery on hard or soft tissue.
3. Administering anesthetics, except topical and local anesthetic, as permitted under these rules.
4. Any irreversible dental procedure or procedures which require the professional judgment and skill of a licensed dentist.
5. Place a final restoration.
6. Contour a final restoration, excluding a crown which has not been cemented by a dentist.
7. Activating any type of orthodontic appliance.
8. Cementing or bonding orthodontic bands or brackets that have not been previously placed by a dentist.
9. Placing bases or cavity liners.

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20-04-01-03. Duties of dental hygienists. A dental hygienist may perform the following services under the direct supervision of a dentist:

1. A licensed dental hygienist may apply for a permit to administer local anesthesia to a patient who is at least eighteen years old, under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. To be considered for a permit, a hygienist must have successfully completed a didactic and clinical course in local anesthesia within the last twenty-four months sponsored by a dental or dental hygiene program accredited by the commission on dental accreditation of the American dental association resulting in the dental hygienist becoming clinically competent in the administration of local anesthesia.
2. A licensed dental hygienist applying for a local anesthesia permit who has been permitted to administer local anesthesia and who has continuously administered local anesthesia during the past three years must provide verification of the permit and continuous use to the North Dakota board of dental examiners. Verification may consist of:
 - a. A letter from the accredited school with the school seal affixed. Photocopies will not be accepted.
 - b. A notarized copy of the certification of the local anesthesia course completed.
 - c. A notarized letter stating that the licensed dental hygienist has administered local anesthesia within the last three years.
 - d. A notarized copy of the dental hygiene transcript with the local anesthesia course recorded.
3. A licensed dental hygienist requesting a permit to administer anesthesia who cannot provide verification as required in subsection 2 must retake and successfully pass a didactic and clinical course in local anesthesia sponsored by a dental or dental hygiene program accredited by the commission on dental accreditation of the American dental association.

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